

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of securing valuable articles within a tamper evident primary container (10), including the steps of:

partitioning the primary container into first (30) and second (32) portions that communicate with each other through at least one path (34.2) arranged to prevent undetectable access to the first portion (30) through the second portion (32); -- inserting articles to be secured into the first portion (30) and sealing (26) at least that portion; and

selectively dispensing a staining medium (12) into the second portion (32) from where it can flow into the first portion through the path (34).

2. (Currently amended) A primary container (10) for articles to be secured comprising an envelope (14) with tamper evident features, a first opening (22) through which articles can be inserted into the envelope, and means (26) for sealing first opening, wherein

partitioning means (34, 50) is provided to separate the envelope (14) into first (30) and second (32) portions that communicate with each other through at least one path (34.2, 50);

and

a second opening (36, 36.1) is formed into the second portion through which a staining medium ~~can be~~ is introduced into the second portion when desired.

3. (Original) The primary container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the path (34.2, 50) is constructed and arranged so as at least to inhibit access to the first portion (30) through the second portion (32).

4. (Previously amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the path (34.2, 50) is constructed and arranged so as to ensure that access to the first portion through the second portion is detectable.

5. (Previously amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the envelope (14) is substantially rectangular, the first opening (22) extends substantially parallel to one pair of opposed edges (18, 20) and the partitioning means (34, 50) extends substantially parallel to the other pair of opposed edges (16).

6. (Previously amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the envelope (14) is substantially

rectangular and the partitioning means (34) extends substantially from one of the edges (18) to the opposite edge (20).

7. (Currently amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one path includes a plurality of spaced apart paths (34.2, 50) ~~are~~ formed through the partitioning means between the first and second portions.

8. (Currently amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 7, wherein the paths (34.2, 50) are formed by the partitioning means which comprises an intermittent seam line.

9. (Original) The primary container as claimed in claim 8, wherein the intermittent seam line is formed by an intermittent joining method selected from: welding, stitching and bonding.

10. (Previously amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 7, wherein the spaced apart paths are of substantially similar size (50).

11. (Original) The primary container as claimed in claim 10, wherein the lengths of the spaced apart paths (34.2, 50) are in the range of 2 to 20 mm.

12. (Original) The primary container as claimed in claim 10, wherein the lengths of the spaced apart paths (34.2, 50) are in the range of 2 to 4 mm.

13. (Currently amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 7, wherein the spaced apart paths have openings ~~(34.2)~~ which increase in size in a direction away from the second opening into the second portion.

14. (Original) The primary container as claimed in claim 13, wherein the lengths of the openings ranges from 2 to 50 mm.

15. (Original) The primary container as claimed in claim 13, wherein the lengths of the openings ranges from 2 to 20 mm.

16. (Currently amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 13, wherein the partitioning means (34) is substantially continuous from the edge adjacent the second opening for a desired length and then is formed with the ~~spaced~~ openings (34.2) to form the spaced apart paths.

17. (Currently amended) The primary container as claimed in

claim 2, wherein the relative configuration of the size of the second opening (36, 36.1) in the second portion (32), the width of the second portion (32) and the dimension of the openings (34.2, 50) between the first (30) and second (32) portions ensures that attempts to insert probes into the first portion through ~~the slit and to the~~ the second portion results in tamper evident stressing of ~~the plastics material of~~ the envelope.

18. (Currently amended) The primary container as claimed in claim 7, wherein the path (50) is formed by the partitioning means which comprises an intermittent seam line (50.1), with the portions of the seam line substantially overlapping one another and providing tortuous flow paths between the first and second portions. ~~(Fig. 2).~~

19. (Original) The primary container as claimed in claim 18, wherein the seam line portions (50.1) are selected from straight, curved and sinuous as desired.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~combination of a~~ primary container (10) as claimed in claim 2 ~~and~~ , wherein a dispensing apparatus (12) ~~that~~ has a store of the staining medium, means to pressurise the staining medium, and means (42) to convey pressurized staining medium into the second portion (32) of the

primary container.

REMAINDER OF PAGE BLANK